



Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus Transmission

Disease and Transmission

What is Avian Influenza (bird flu)?	<p>Bird flu is an infection caused by avian (bird) influenza (flu) viruses. These flu viruses are common in birds. Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses in their intestines, but usually do not get sick from them</p> <p>Bird flu is spread easily from bird to bird and can make some domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys, very sick and cause them to die.</p> <p>Bird flu germs do not usually infect humans, but several cases of human infection from bird flu germs have been reported since 1997.</p>
What is the risk to humans from bird flu?	<p>Risks are low for most people because the viruses occur mainly among birds and do not usually cause humans to become ill.</p> <p>During an outbreak of bird flu among poultry (domesticated chicken, ducks, turkeys) there are possible risks to people who come into contact with sick birds or surfaces that had contact with sick birds.</p> <p>The current outbreak of avian influenza A (H5N1) among poultry in Asia is an example of a bird flu outbreak causing human infections and deaths.</p>
How do I protect myself? (Possible Exposure)	<p>Avoid contact with infected birds. These birds shed flu viruses in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Other birds may become infected when they are in contact with these contaminated excretions.</p> <p>There are two ways people can prevent exposure to avian flu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contaminated wild birds and locations where the virus may be present. • Avoid contaminated poultry (domesticated chicken, ducks, turkeys)
Symptoms?	<p>Symptoms of bird flu in humans cause typical flu-like symptoms that range from mild to serious:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory disease (such as acute respiratory distress), and other severe and life-threatening complications.
Treatment?	<p>See your doctor for treatment</p>
More Information	<p>For more information visit:</p> <p>http://pandemicflu.gov</p> <p>http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en</p> <p>http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian</p>